

# WELFARE-TO-WORK FACT SHEET

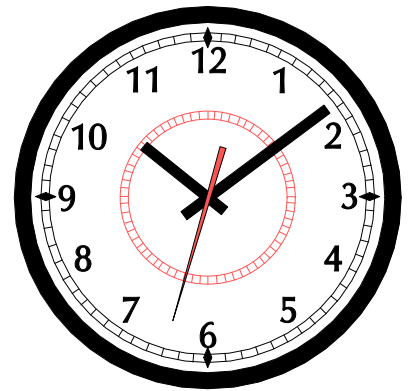
HOME

- ① WHAT IS WELFARE-TO-WORK?
- ① WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO BE REFERRED TO WELFARE-TO-WORK?
- ① INTRODUCTION TO WELFARE REFORM AND WELFARE-TO-WORK
- ① WHAT ARE THE TIME LIMITS?
- ① THE COUNTY WILL DECIDE IF YOU MUST PARTICIPATE IN WELFARE-TO-WORK
- ① WELFARE-TO-WORK PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS
- ① WELFARE-TO-WORK ACTIVITIES
- ① WELFARE TO WORK ENROLLMENT
- ① WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DO NOT PARTICIPATE?
  - ① Sanctions
- ① SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

## WHAT IS WELFARE-TO-WORK (WTW)?

Welfare-to-Work is the Employment Program of the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids Program (CalWORKs). If you are a CalWORKs recipient and able-bodied, you must participate in WTW activities to continue to receive cash aid.

The Goal of WTW is to help you get the best job you can as soon as possible, and to keep that job!



## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO BE REFERRED TO WELFARE-TO-WORK?

- ① Because the law now limits the amount of time you can receive welfare; and
- ① While you are receiving cash aid, you must be either working or taking part in WTW activities for 32 or 35 hours per week, every week.

## INTRODUCTION TO WELFARE REFORM AND WELFARE-TO-WORK

The Federal Government has set its requirements for Welfare Reform:

- ① The new assistance program is called TANF, which means Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

- ① TANF is **temporary**.
- ① There is no longer an AFDC, Aid for Families with Dependent Children, Program.

Every state will have its own plan for TANF. California's Program is called CalWORKS.

## **WHAT ARE THE TIME LIMITS?**

- ① You can only receive cash aid for a total lifetime limit of 60 months, and
- ① Your Welfare clock starts ticking, as soon as you start receiving cash aid.

## **THE COUNTY WILL DECIDE IF YOU MUST PARTICIPATE IN WELFARE-TO-WORK**

If you are a California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) recipient, and you are not exempt, you must take part in WTW.

### **IF YOU ARE A MANDATORY PARTICIPANT, YOU MUST:**

- ① Keep appointments made by WTW
- ① Not quit your job or lower your earnings
- ① Attend and take part in your WTW assignment
- ① Make satisfactory progress in your assignment and provide proof of your progress when required

## **WELFARE-TO-WORK PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS**

- ① You will be assigned to WTW activities for 32 or 35 hours per week, every week.
- ① If you get a job and are not working for 32 or 35 hours, you will be required to go to your job and go to other WTW activities to make sure you are participating the required hours.
- ① A volunteer is someone who does not have to participate in WTW at this time, but wants to get a job and become self-sufficient.

**When you start working**, you may be eligible for an Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). EITC is a tax credit for low income working families.

**And**

**When you get a fulltime job**, Welfare-to-Work will help you keep that job and, if you want, we will work with you to get a better job.

### **In addition, CalWORKs requires you to:**

Support yourself and your family and take personal responsibility for yourself and your children by:

- ① Making sure your children have all their childhood immunizations

- ① Making sure your children go to school every day
- ① Maintaining a drug free home

## **WELFARE-TO-WORK ACTIVITIES**

As soon as your application for cash aid has been granted, you will be scheduled for a WTW Intake and Appraisal appointment.

You must come to your WTW appointments.

During your Appraisal, your Employment Case Manager will look over the following areas:

- ① Your Work History and Education,
- ① Your Need for Supportive Services, and
- ① Other Information,

to help the county decide what your WTW activity or activities will be.

### **EMPLOYER TAX CREDITS**

*Do you know that employers can receive federal or state tax credits when they hire WTW participants? Your WTW Employment Case Manager will tell you how these tax credits can help you get a job.*

There are many paths open to WTW participants. Your path may not involve every activity in WTW because a lot depends on your education and job history. The purpose of Welfare-to-Work is to HELP YOU PREPARE FOR WORK AND FIND A JOB so that you can support yourself and your family.

A roadblock to success in getting a job and becoming self-sufficient is Substance Abuse. Earlier we talked about your Personal Responsibility to yourselves and your families. One of those responsibilities is maintaining a drug free home and this is a major part of CalWORKs and San Diego County's W2W Program.

At the Appraisal, you will be given a Simple Screening Instrument for Substance Abuse. This is an initial test or an indicator. You will talk to someone about the test results. Taking the test and being referred to someone who is an expert in this field **does not** mean you have a Substance Abuse Problem.

## **WELFARE TO WORK ENROLLMENT**

To complete your enrollment in WTW, you will need to complete the following forms:

- ① Personal Responsibility Agreement
- ① The Participant Profile

WTW gets many calls from employers who have job openings, and want to hire Welfare-to-Work participants. The Participant Profile is used to help match Welfare-to-Work

participants to certain jobs based on work experience, skills, and abilities.

#### ⌚ Information on Welfare-to-Work

This is the Welfare-to-Work Handbook. The handbook explains your Responsibilities and Rights while you are a participant in the Welfare-to-Work Program. Make sure you read all parts of the handbook so that you understand the program. And if you have any questions, please ask us to explain.

Welfare-to-Work is the program that will give you the tools you need to get off of welfare. It will be your choice on how well you do.

You now have Choices and Responsibilities. One of those responsibilities is that you will attend and participate in your Welfare-to-Work assignment. If you don't do what you agree to do, there are consequences. You can lose your cash aid.

### **WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DO NOT PARTICIPATE?**

If for any reason, you do not do what Welfare-to-Work requires, the following steps will be taken:

- ⌚ You have the chance to explain why you did not meet W2W requirements. The county will decide if you had a good reason.
- ⌚ Your family's cash aid will be lowered if:  
You fail or refuse to meet WTW requirements without a good reason, and  
You do not resolve the problem by signing and completing a plan to do what you are required.
- ⌚ If your family is a two-parent family getting cash aid, there are special rules for financial sanctions:

When a parent who must participate in WTW, does not participate and causes a financial sanction, both parents will lose their cash aid.

But the parent who did not cause the sanction can keep his or her cash aid if he or she takes part in W2W, is exempt, or has good cause for not participating.

### **SANCTIONS**

- If you are sanctioned, your family's cash aid will be lowered until you do what WTW requires.
- If you are sanctioned, you may cure your sanction at any time, regardless of the number of times you have been sanctioned.

- You may contact a WTW office and request to cure your sanction without having to wait a minimum sanction period.
- ➔ If you do not agree with the county's decisions regarding your W2W requirements, you have the right to a State Hearing or Formal Grievance

## **SUPPORTIVE SERVICES**

When you are enrolled in Welfare-to-Work, you are eligible for assistance with Welfare-to-Work related support services, such as transportation, child care, and other expenses.

### **Child Care**

Immediately following your W2W Intake Appraisal, you will begin your participation in CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work Activities for 32 or 35 hours per week. You have the freedom to choose your own child care provider.

If you are unable to find a child care provider, help is available by calling:

YMCA Childcare Resource Service at 1-800-481-2151

When you call, you will be given phone numbers for licensed child centers and family day care homes. This is a referral service only. You will need to discuss your child care plans when you meet with your Employment Case Manager.

#### **REMEMBER:**

You will continue to participate in Welfare-to-Work, participating in 32 or 35 hours per week, moving from one activity to another, until you get a job and become self-supporting, or your Welfare-to-Work time limit ends.

**NOW IS THE TIME TO PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE. IF YOU WAIT, IT WILL BE TOO LATE.**

[Back To Top](#)